

Application No. 10/713,167
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to make a minor grammatical improvement. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the lower die assembly is for a pressing machine for cold forging, whereby the lower die comprises a lower die which is formed in a multi-layer structure comprising a plurality of die members together, and whereby the lift mechanism includes a lifting plate which is disposed below the lower die and a lifting rod which is operatively coupled to a lower die lift cylinder and which is operable to raise the lower die above an upper end of the die holder via the lifting plate when the lower die is unclamped. See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0002], [0010]-[0012], and [0018].

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claim 1 be approved and entered.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 4,317,358 ("Yonezawa et al") and USP 3,673,908 ("Smith"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, a lower die assembly is provided for a pressing machine for cold forging. The lower die assembly comprises a lower die which is formed in a multi-layer structure comprising a plurality of die members together; a die holder for receiving and securely holding the lower die; a clamp mechanism for securely clamping the lower die in the die holder, wherein when the lower die is unclamped the lower die is held in the die holder so as to be extractable upwards from the die holder; and a lift mechanism including a lifting plate which is disposed below the lower die and a lifting rod which is operatively coupled to a lower die lift cylinder and which is operable to raise the lower die above an upper end of the die holder via the lifting plate when the lower die is unclamped.

Thus, according to the claimed present invention the lower die is formed in a multi-layer structure comprising a plurality of die members together. In such a structure, the outermost die member is tightly fitted in the die holder.

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